

Commas: Dates, Addresses, and Letters*Teaching*

Commas in dates Use a comma between the day of the month and the year. If the sentence continues, use a comma after the year also.

On December 25, 1776, Washington crossed the Delaware.

Commas in addresses Use a comma between the name of a city or town and the name of the state or country. If the sentence continues, use a comma after the name of the state or country.

What happened at Lexington, Massachusetts, in 1775?

Commas in letters Use a comma after the greeting of a friendly letter and after the closing of a friendly or business letter.

Dear Dad, Your daughter,

A. Using Commas Correctly in Dates and Addresses

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. The Revolutionary War started at Lexington and Concord Massachusetts.
2. The British surrender was at Yorktown Virginia on October 17 1781.
3. The Battle of Bunker Hill was actually fought on Breed's Hill in Charlestown Massachusetts.
4. The young Marquis Lafayette was with Washington at Valley Forge Pennsylvania.
5. On July 4 1837 the Concord battle monument was dedicated.
6. Do you suppose that on July 4 2037 there will be an anniversary ceremony there?

B. Using Commas Correctly in Dates, Addresses, and Letters

Insert commas where necessary in the following letter.

476 Crescent Avenue
Middleport NY 14006
April 10 2000

Dear Grandpa Jim

Since you are interested in American history, I want to tell you about our field trip this year to Fort Ticonderoga near Albany New York. The trip was fun, and I learned all about the Green Mountain Boys and their leader, Ethan Allen. On May 10 1775 the Vermont patriots took Fort Ticonderoga from the British in a surprise attack. The fort is a museum now. During a demonstration, the museum guide let me help fire a cannon!

Your loving granddaughter
Susan

Lesson
3

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More Practice

A. Using Commas Correctly in Dates and Addresses

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. On December 16 1773 colonists of Boston Massachusetts objected to British taxes on tea by dumping a shipment of tea into the harbor.
2. Soon many were predicting war; on March 23 1775 Patrick Henry gave a speech in Williamsburg Virginia in which he said, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
3. Just a month later, on April 19 1775 the first battle of the Revolution was fought.
4. Shortly after, on June 15 1775 the Second Continental Congress, meeting at Philadelphia Pennsylvania, named George Washington head of the army.
5. Washington won an important battle at Trenton New Jersey on December 26 1776.
6. After the end of the war, the last British soldiers boarded ships to leave New York New York on November 25 1783.

B. Using the Comma in Letters

Write these parts in the correct order on the lines below. Use commas where they are needed.

4700 Crescent Avenue	With love	It's been years since I've traveled through Albany New York and seen historic sites in the area. How were you lucky enough to be invited to take part in the cannon demonstration at Fort Ticonderoga? Did the cannon fire as it should?
Grandpa Jim	Dear Susan	
Baltimore MD 21218	April 21 2000	

Lesson 3

A. Proofreading a Letter

Proofread the following letter for punctuation errors. Insert commas where necessary.

476 Crescent Avenue
Middleport NY 14006
May 6 2000

Dear Grandpa Jim

You asked about my class's field trip to Fort Ticonderoga and how I was chosen to help fire a cannon in the demonstration. During our tour of the fort, the guide asked us about events of the Revolutionary War. Here are two of his questions: What happened on July 4 1776? Who almost turned over the American fort at West Point New York to the British? Everyone in the class could answer the first question, but I was the only one who knew about Benedict Arnold. So the guide chose me to help him. By the way, the cannon made a noise, but it didn't shoot anything at all!

Your loving granddaughter
Susan

B. Writing with Commas

Imagine that you're a soldier in Washington's army at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1777-78, and you're writing a letter to a family member at home. On the lines below, write the letter. Use the form of a friendly letter, using commas correctly.

[illegible]